

# *Sketch*

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## Somewhere East of Vegas

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## Somewhere East of Vegas

With my eyes closed  
I can smell the ocean . . .

california-girl-child  
wild  
and breathless  
in her haste  
Bloodcandy in the sun  
and the scent of sands-  
coming out of the desert  
and into the fleshy oasis  
of an air-conditioned mystery  
pretty  
and wasted  
Hell with a sugartaste . . .

The walls are the same again.  
Smelling of sweat cold on my back  
and my mouth, dry as the bottle  
gone before dusk.  
Another gone before dawn  
warming my nightmares  
to dreams in heat;  
her blood flowing like octane  
somewhere east of Vegas.

—Steve Lawless